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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
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FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN:
IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND ACTION
IN THE CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN

Bangladesh*, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Mongolia* and Philippines: draft resolution

Traffic in women and girls

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming its faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[2] the International Covenants on Human Rights,[3] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[4] the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others,[5] the Convention

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* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[2] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

[3] General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[4] General Assembly resolution 39/46, annex.

[5] General Assembly resolution 317 (IV).

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on the Rights of the Child[6] and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[7]

Recalling its resolution 40/4 of 22 March 1996, General Assembly resolution 51/66 of 12 December 1996 and the Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/24 of 19 April 1996, as well as all previous resolutions adopted by these three bodies on the subject of traffic in women and girls,

Recalling also and concurring with the conclusions of and recommendations made by recent international conferences on the human rights of women and girl children, in particular with respect to the violation of those rights through sexual and economic exploitation for the profit of recruiters, traffickers and crime syndicates, as well as other illegal activities related to trafficking, such as forced domestic labour, false marriages, child marriages, clandestine employment and false adoption,

Recalling further the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[8] which, inter alia, called upon all Governments to prevent all international trafficking in migrants, especially for the purpose of prostitution, and for the adoption by Governments of both receiving countries and countries of origin of effective sanctions against those who organize undocumented migration, exploit undocumented migrants or engage in trafficking in undocumented migrants, especially those who engage in any form of international trafficking in women and girl children,

Acknowledging that the problem of trafficking also victimizes young boys,

Welcoming the convening of the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children at Stockholm from 27 to 31 August 1996[9] and other conferences on trafficking in women and children for sexual exploitation,

Noting with satisfaction the commemoration of the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery on 6 December 1996 at a plenary meeting of the General Assembly devoted to the discussion of the problem of trafficking in human persons, with the participation of a victim of trafficking,

Realizing the urgent need for the adoption of effective measures at the national, regional and international levels to protect women and girl children from this nefarious traffic,

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[6] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

[7] General Assembly resolution 48/104.

[8] Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[9] See A/51/385.

Recognizing that trafficking in women and girl children is inseparable from other forms of sexual exploitation, including sex tourism, pornography, bride markets and prostitution,

1. Expresses serious concern about the unabating traffic in women and girl children and the misuse of advanced information technology for pornography and trafficking purposes;

2. Calls for the acceleration of the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference of Women by Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination and regional and international organizations, as appropriate, by:

(a) Considering the ratification and enforcement of international conventions of trafficking in persons and on slavery;

(b) Taking appropriate measures to address the root factors, including external forces, that encourage trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriages and forced labour in order to eliminate trafficking in women, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punish the perpetrators, including customers, through both criminal and civil measures;

(c) Stepping up cooperation and concerted action by all relevant law enforcement authorities and institutions with a view to dismantling national, regional and international networks in trafficking;

(d) Allocating resources to provide comprehensive programmes designed to heal and rehabilitate into society victims of trafficking, including through job training and the provision of legal assistance and confidential health care, as well as by taking measures to cooperate with non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims of trafficking;

(e) Developing educational and training programmes and policies and considering enacting legislation aimed at preventing sex tourism and trafficking, and all forms of sexual exploitation, giving special emphasis to the protection of young women and children;

3. Calls upon Governments to take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of the prostitution of women;

4. Encourages Governments, relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to cooperate with one another so as to facilitate the development of anti-trafficking measures and to encourage wider public awareness of the problem;

5. Calls upon all Governments to take appropriate measures to prevent misuse and exploitation by traffickers of such economic activities as the

development of tourism and the export of labour and the use of information technology, including cyberspace;

6. Encourages the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, to continue to pay special attention to the problem of trafficking in women and girl children, and to submit a report thereon to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-second session;

7. Encourages the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to continue to consider the problem of trafficking in human persons in the context of its discussion on the question of organized transnational crime;

8. Welcomes the proposal contained in General Assembly resolution 51/120 of 12 December 1996 for the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime;

9. Supports the work of the working group of the Commission on Human Rights on the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and expresses the hope that the working group will make further progress prior to the fifty-third session of the Commission with a view to finalizing this work;

10. Encourages the holding of an international conference on trafficking and all forms of sexual exploitation;

11. Decides to remain seized of this matter and to examine at its forty-second session the reports of the Special Rapporteurs and relevant organizations and bodies, with a view to making appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997.